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(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING POST-MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION DAMAGE

(57) Abstract: Methods and compositions for treating post-myocardial infarction damage are herein disclosed. In some embodiments, a carrier with a treatment agent may be fabricated. The carrier can be formulated from a bioerodable, sustained-release substance. The resultant loaded carrier may then be suspended in at least one component of a two- component matrix system for simultaneous delivery to a post-myocardial infarction treatment area.



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METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING POST-MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION DAMAGE**FIELD OF INVENTION**

[0001] Post-myocardial infarction treatments and compositions.

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0002] This is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 11/361,920, filed February 23, 2006, which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 11/110,223, filed April 19, 2005, now pending.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0003] Ischemic heart disease typically results from an imbalance between the myocardial blood flow and the metabolic demand of the myocardium. Progressive atherosclerosis with increasing occlusion of coronary arteries leads to a reduction in coronary blood flow. "Atherosclerosis" is a type of arteriosclerosis in which cells including smooth muscle cells and macrophages, fatty substances, cholesterol, cellular waste product, calcium and fibrin build up in the inner lining of a body vessel. "Arteriosclerosis" refers to the thickening and hardening of arteries. Blood flow can be further decreased by additional events such as changes in circulation that lead to hypoperfusion, vasospasm or thrombosis.

[0004] Myocardial infarction (MI) is one form of heart disease that often results from the sudden lack of supply of oxygen and other nutrients. The lack of blood supply is a result of a closure of the coronary artery (or any other artery feeding the heart) which nourishes a particular part of the heart muscle. The cause of this event is generally attributed to arteriosclerosis in coronary vessels.

[0005] Formerly, it was believed that an MI was caused from a slow progression of closure from, for example, 95% then to 100%. However, an MI can also be a result of minor blockages where, for example, there is a rupture of the cholesterol plaque resulting in blood clotting within the artery. Thus, the flow of blood is blocked and

downstream cellular damage occurs. This damage can cause irregular rhythms that can be fatal, even though the remaining muscle is strong enough to pump a sufficient amount of blood. As a result of this insult to the heart tissue, scar tissue tends to naturally form.

[0006] Various procedures, including mechanical and therapeutic agent application procedures, are known for reopening blocked arteries. An example of a mechanical procedure includes balloon angioplasty with stenting, while an example of a therapeutic agent application includes the administration of a thrombolytic agent, such as urokinase. Such procedures do not, however, treat actual tissue damage to the heart. Other systemic drugs, such as ACE-inhibitors and Beta-blockers, may be effective in reducing cardiac load post-MI, although a significant portion of the population that experiences a major MI ultimately develop heart failure.

[0007] An important component in the progression to heart failure is remodeling of the heart due to mismatched mechanical forces between the infarcted region and the healthy tissue resulting in uneven stress and strain distribution in the left ventricle. Once an MI occurs, remodeling of the heart begins. The principle components of the remodeling event include myocyte death, edema and inflammation, followed by fibroblast infiltration and collagen deposition, and finally scar formation. The principle component of the scar is collagen. Since mature myocytes of an adult are not regenerated, the infarct region experiences significant thinning. Myocyte loss is the major etiologic factor of wall thinning and chamber dilation that may ultimately lead to progression of cardiac myopathy. In other areas, remote regions experience hypertrophy (thickening) resulting in an overall enlargement of the left ventricle. This is the end result of the remodeling cascade. These changes in the heart result in changes in the patient's lifestyle and their ability to walk and to exercise. These changes also correlate with physiological changes that result in increase in blood pressure and worsening systolic and diastolic performance.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0008] Methods and compositions for treating post-myocardial infarction damage are herein disclosed. In some embodiments, a carrier may be loaded with a treatment

agent. The carrier can be formulated from a bioerodable, sustained-release substance. The resultant loaded carrier may then be suspended in one component of a two-component matrix for simultaneous delivery to a post-myocardial infarction treatment area.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0009] FIGS. 1A-1B illustrate the progression of heart damage once the build-up of plaque in an artery induces an infarct to occur.

[0010] FIG. 2 schematically represents a method for preparing a two-component gel matrix with a sustained carrier loaded with treatment agent interdispersed therein.

[0011] FIG. 3 schematically represents an alternative method for preparing a two-component gel matrix with a sustained carrier loaded with treatment agent interdispersed therein.

[0012] FIG. 4 schematically represents a second alternative method for preparing a two-component gel matrix with a sustained carrier loaded with treatment agent interdispersed therein.

[0013] FIGS. 5A-5B illustrate an embodiment of a dual-needle injection device which can be used to deliver the compositions of the present invention.

[0014] FIGS. 6A-6C illustrate an alternative embodiment of a dual-needle injection device which can be used to deliver the compositions of the present invention

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] Methods and compositions for treating post-myocardial infarction damage are herein disclosed. In some embodiments, a carrier with a treatment agent may be fabricated. The carrier can be formulated from a bioerodable, sustained-release substance. The resultant loaded carrier may then be suspended in at least one component of a two-component matrix system for simultaneous delivery to a post-myocardial infarction treatment area.

[0016] FIGS. 1A-1B illustrate the progression of heart damage once the build-up of plaque induces an infarct to occur. FIG. 1A illustrates a site 10 where blockage and restricted blood flow can occur from, for example, a thrombus or embolus. FIG. 1B illustrates resultant damage area 20 to the left ventricle that can result from the lack of oxygen and nutrient flow carried by the blood to the inferior region left of the heart. The damage area 20 will likely undergo remodeling, and eventually scarring, resulting in a non-functional area.

Treatment Agents

[0017] Treatment agents to treat post-myocardial infarction treatment areas may include: (i) agents that promote angiogenesis (angiogenesis promoting factors); (ii) agents that promote cell survival (cell survival promoting factors); and (iii) agents that recruit endogenous progenitor and/or stem cells (endogenous recruiting factors). Various forms of treatment agents are intended to include, but are not intended to be limited to, drugs, biologically active agents, chemically active agents, therapeutic agents, and the like, and pharmaceutical compositions thereof, which can be used in the delivery of a treatment agent to a treatment site as described herein.

[0018] "Angiogenesis" is the promotion or causation of the formation of new blood vessels. After an MI, the infarct tissue as well as the border zone and the remote zone around the infarct tissue begin to remodel. Scar tissue forms in the infarct region as the granulation is replaced with collagen. Stress from blood pressure cause the scar to thin out and stretch. The perfusion in this region is typically 10% of the healthy zone, decreasing the number of active capillaries. Increasing the number of capillaries may lead to an increase in compliance of the ventricle due to filling up with blood. Other benefits of increasing blood flow to the infarcted region include providing a route for circulating stem cells to seed and proliferate in the infarct region. Angiogenesis may also lead to increased oxygenation for the surviving cellular islets within the infarct region, or to prime the infarct region for subsequent cell transplantation for myocardial regeneration. In the border zone, surviving cells would also benefit from an increase in blood supply through an angiogenesis process. In the remote zone, where cardiac cells tend to hypertrophy and become surrounded with some interstitial fibrosis, the ability of cells to receive oxygen and therefore function

to full capacity are also compromised; thus, angiogenesis would be beneficial in these regions as well.

[0019] In some embodiments, angiogenesis promoting factors include, but are not intended to be limited to, growth factors such as isoforms of vasoendothelial growth factor (VEGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF, e.g. beta-FGF), Del 1, hypoxia inducing factor (HIF 1-alpha), monocyte chemoattractant protein (MCP-1), nicotine, platelet derived growth factor (PDGF), insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1), transforming growth factor (TGF alpha), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), estrogens, follistatin, proliferin, prostaglandin E1 and E2, tumor necrosis factor (TNF-alpha), interleukin 8 (Il-8), hematopoietic growth factors, erythropoietin, granulocyte-colony stimulating factors (G-CSF) and platelet-derived endothelial growth factor (PD-ECGF). In some embodiments, angiogenesis promoting factors include, but are not intended to be limited to, peptides, such as PR39, PR11 and angiogenin, small molecules, such as PHD inhibitors, or other agents, such as eNOS enhancers.

[0020] Endogenous cardiomyocyte (myocytes) apoptosis is the major etiological factor of wall thinning and chamber dilation and may ultimately lead to progression of cardiac myopathy. After an infarction, mature myocytes of an adult are not regenerated which can lead to significant thinning in the infarct region. Thus, factors which promote cell survival applied to the infarct region are believed to be beneficial. In some embodiments, cell survival promoting factors include, but are not intended to be limited to, growth factors such as insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1) and human growth factor (HGF), which are known to mediate cell growth, differentiation and survival of a variety of cell types. In addition, small molecules such as, for example, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins) and capsase inhibitors can also promote cell survival and inhibit apoptosis.

[0021] To assist in the generation of new cells at the infarct region, autologous or allogeneic stem cells may be delivered to a patient. "Autologous" means the donor and recipient of the stem cells are the same. "Allogeneic" means the donor and recipient of the stem cells are different. Cell survival promoting factors can also be used to increase the survivability of autologous and allogeneic implanted stem cells at the infarct region.

[0022] Cardiac progenitor cells are highly specialized stem cells which have shown the ability to differentiate into certain types of fully mature cardiac tissue. Examples of cardiac progenitor cells include, but are not limited to, c-Kit(+), Sca-1(+) and Isl-1(+). Thus, factors which recruit endogenous factors when applied to the infarct region are believed to be beneficial. In some embodiments, an endogenous recruiting factor can include, for example, HGF. HGF has been shown to control cell motility and promote cell migration. If applied post-infarction, HGF can assist in mobilizing and recruiting resident cardiac progenitor cells to the infarct region. In some embodiments, an endogenous recruiting factor can include, but is not intended to be limited to, stromal cell-derived factor 1 (SDF-1). SDF-1 is the ligand for the CXCR4 receptor, which is a surface receptor on circulating endothelial progenitor cells. Thus, when applied in or around the infarct region, SDF-1 may facilitate the homing of circulating endothelial progenitor cells to induce neovascularization.

[0023] It is contemplated that any of the above-described treatment agents can be used singularly or in combination thereof. In addition, other treatment agents, including but not limited to, anti-inflammatory, anti-platelet, anti-coagulant, anti-fibrin, anti-thrombotic, anti-mitotic, anti-biotic, anti-allergic, anti-oxidant, anti-proliferative, or anti-migratory agents, may be optionally used singularly or in combination thereof.

Sustained-release carriers

[0024] Bioerodable carriers (hereinafter interchangeably referred to as sustained-release carriers) infused with (or without) a treatment agent can be used for the sustained or controlled release of treatment agent for maximum benefit to the infarct region. It is believed that a large percentage of treatment agent delivered directly to the infarct region, or even diffused within a gel-like matrix, will be substantially washed away by the body's natural mechanisms, thus lessening the benefit of the treatment agent that may otherwise be obtained. Thus, sustained-release carriers infused with treatment agent that release the treatment agent over an extended time period can be beneficial by increasing the amount of time in which the infarct region is exposed to the treatment agent. Sustained-release carriers include, but are not limited to, (i) microparticles or nanoparticles (hereinafter interchangeably referred to

as microparticles), (ii) microfibers or nanofibers (hereinafter interchangeably referred to as microfibers) and (iii) liposomes and polymerosomes.

[0025] In addition, in some embodiments, a bioerodable carrier may be infused with (or without) a treatment agent and delivered to a treatment site to act as a “docking site” for endogenous myocardial stem cells and encourage their differentiation into cardiomyocytes.

A.

[0026] In some embodiments, the sustained-release carrier is a microparticle. Various methods can be employed to formulate and infuse or load the microparticles with treatment agent. In some embodiments, the microparticles are prepared by a water/oil/water (W/O/W) double emulsion method. In the W1 phase, an aqueous phase containing treatment agent, is dispersed into the oil phase consisting of polymer dissolved in organic solvent (e.g., dichloromethane) using a high-speed homogenizer. Examples of sustained-release polymers include, but are not limited to, poly(D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA), poly(D,L-lactide) (PLA) or PLA-PEEP co-polymers, poly-ester-amide co-polymers (PEA) and polyphosphazines. The primary water-in-oil (W/O) emulsion is then dispersed to an aqueous solution containing a polymeric surfactant, e.g., poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA), and further homogenized to produce a W/O/W emulsion. After stirring for several hours, the microparticles are collected by filtration.

B.

[0027] In some embodiments, the sustained-release carrier is a microfiber or nanofiber. For example, the treatment agent (or no treatment agent) infused microfiber can be formulated by electrospinning. “Electrospinning” is a process by which microfibers are formed by using an electric field to draw a polymer solution from the tip of a capillary to a collector. A voltage is applied to the polymer solution which causes a stream of solution to be drawn toward a grounded collector. Electrospinning generates a web of fibers which can be subsequently processed into smaller lengths.

[0028] Examples of sustained-release polymers which can be used in electrospinning include, but are not limited to, PLGA, PLA or PLA-PEEP copolymers, PEA, polyphosphazines and collagen. In one method, the treatment agent is mixed with a bioerodable polymer solution, a solvent and a surfactant. Examples of surfactants can include, but are not limited to, anionic or cationic surfactants. Useful anionic surfactants include, but are not intended to be limited to, bis(2-ethylhexyl) sodium sulfosuccinate (AOT), bis (2-ethylhexyl) phosphate (NaDEHP), tauroglycocholate, and sodium lauryl sulfate. A useful cationic surfactant is tetradecyltrimethyl-ammonium bromide (TTAB). An example of a solvent includes, but is not limited to, hexafluoro isopropanol. The treatment agent-infused polymer solution is then subjected to electrospinning. As the solvent evaporates during electrospinning, the treatment agent incorporates and distributes within the polymer by non-covalent interactions. The resultant microfibers which can be from about 0.5 μm to about 3 μm in diameter form a web which may then be processed into smaller lengths of about 0.5 μm to about 500 μm . Based on the treatment agent, in some applications, microfibers may be a preferred sustained-release carrier due to the non-aqueous process by which they are formed. In some applications, microspheres may be preferable when the treatment agent is hydrophilic. In some applications, a microfiber is a preferred sustained-release carrier due to its release pharmacokinetic profile when compared to the release pharmacokinetic profile of a microsphere. In some cases, microspheres as well as microfibers can be used as a carrier of one or more than one treatment agent as the two types of carriers will provide different pharmacokinetic release profiles which may be advantageous for therapy.

[0029] In one embodiment, fibers can be electrospun from collagen and elastin dissolved in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol (HFP), forming a polymer solution. A treatment agent can be added to the polymer solution. A surfactant and a stabilizer can be used to evenly disperse the treatment agent in the solvent. The polymer solution can then be loaded into a syringe and placed in a syringe pump for metered dispensing at a predetermined rate. A positive output lead of a high voltage supply can be attached to a needle on the syringe. The needle can be directed to a stainless steel grounded target placed approximately 10 cm from the needle tip, which can be rotated at a predetermined speed to ensure an even coating. The distance of the needle from

the target can be varied depending upon the diameter of the fibers needed. The resultant microfibers are from about 0.5 μm to about 3 μm in diameter and the resulting non-woven mat of fibers can then be processed into smaller lengths of about 0.5 μm to about 500 μm .

C.

[0030] In some embodiments, the sustained-release carrier is a liposome or a polymerosome. "Liposomes" are artificial vesicles that are approximately spherical in shape and can be produced from natural phospholipids and cholesterol. In one method, phospholipids are mixed with cholesterol in chloroform. Suitable phospholipids include, but are not limited to, dimyristoyl phosphatidyl choline or dipalmitoyl ethanolamine. In some embodiments, hydrophobic treatment agent can be added with an optional co-solvent, such as heptane or toluene. The liposomes may also be hydrophilically modified with an agent such as polyethylene glycol or dextran. After mixing, the solvent (and optional co-solvent) can be evaporated with heat or ambient temperature in a round bottom flask. Resultant lipids will be deposited on the glass surface. In some embodiments, hydrophilic treatment agent and water can be added to the flask and sonicated to form liposomes. The resultant suspension can be pressure filtered through ceramic pore size controlled filters to reduce liposome particle size. In the case of a polymerosome, a similar manufacturing technique can be used as that of a liposome. Polymerosomes can be formed from di-block co-polymers of differing solubility. For example, one block can be hydrophobic, e.g., poly lactic acid, polycaprolactone, n-butyl acrylate, and the other block can be hydrophilic, e.g., poly (ethylene glycol), poly(acrylic acid).

Matrix Systems

[0031] A biocompatible matrix system can be used to suspend the treatment agent or the treatment agent-infused sustained-release carrier for delivery to the infarct region. In some embodiments, the matrix system can be a one-component or a two-component gel. In some embodiments, the matrix system is a two-component gel. Two-component gels can include, for example, fibrin glues (e.g., two components comprising fibrinogen and thrombin), self-assembled peptides or alginate constructs.

[0032] In some embodiments, the matrix system is a one-component gel. An example of a one-component gel includes an acrylate agent that is biocompatible. The one-component gel serves in one aspect to disperse the sustained-release carrier in order to form a more uniform scaffold over the entire infarct zone and may include border zone as well. For example, the one-component gel may be sodium hyaluronate. The gel disperses the sustained-release carrier acting as a suspending media.

A.

[0033] In some applications, the two-component gelation system includes a fibrin glue. Fibrin glue consists of two main components, fibrinogen and thrombin. Fibrinogen is a plasma glycoprotein of about 340 kiloDaltons (kDa) in its endogenous state. Fibrinogen is a symmetrical dimer comprised of six paired polypeptide chains, alpha, beta and gamma chains. On the alpha and beta chains, there is a small peptide sequence called a fibrinopeptide which prevent fibrinogen from spontaneously forming polymers with itself. In some embodiments, fibrinogen is modified with proteins. Thrombin is a coagulation protein. When combined in equal volumes, thrombin converts the fibrinogen to fibrin by enzymatic action at a rate determined by the concentration of thrombin. The result is a biocompatible gel which gels when combined at the infarct region. Fibrin glue can undergo gelation at about 10 to about 60 seconds. Examples of other fibrin glue-like systems include, but are not limited to, Tisseel™ (Baxter), CoSeal™ (Baxter), Crosseal™ (Omrix Biopharmaceuticals, Ltd.), Hemaseel® (Haemacure Corp.) and CoStasis® (Angiotech Pharmaceuticals).

B.

[0034] In some embodiments, the two-component gel comprises self-assembled peptides. Self-assembled peptides generally include repeat sequences of alternating hydrophobic and hydrophilic amino acid chains. The hydrophilic amino acids are generally charge-bearing and can be anionic, cationic or both. Examples of cationic amino acids are lysine and arginine. Examples of anionic amino acids are aspartic acid and glutamic acid. Examples of hydrophobic amino acids are alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine or phenylalanine. Self-assembled peptides can range from 8 to about 40 amino acids in length and can assemble into nanoscale fibers under

conditions of physiological pH and osmolarity. In sufficient concentration and over time, the fibers can assemble into an interconnected structure that appears macroscopically as a gel. Self-assembled peptides typically undergo gelation between several minutes to several hours. Examples of self-assembled peptides include, but are not limited to: AcN-RARADADARARADADA-CN_H₂ (RAD 16-II) wherein R is arginine, A is alanine, D is aspartic acid, and Ac indicates acetylation; VKVKVKVKV-PP-TKVKVKVKV-NH₂ (MAX-1) wherein V is valine, K is lysine and P is proline; and AcN-AEAEAKAKAEAEAKAK-CN_H₂ wherein A is alanine, K is lysine and E is glutamic acid (EAK16-II).

Example

[0035] In one example, the self-assembled peptide is RAD 16-II. At low pH and osmolarity, RAD 16-II forms a solution. At physiological pH and osmolarity, RAD 16-II forms a gel although gel formation can be slow. In some embodiments, RAD 16-II is mixed with phosphate buffer saline (PBS) to form a first component solution. In some embodiments, the first component solution can be co-injected with a second component comprising sodium chloride, sucrose or other osmolarity modifying substance using, for example, a dual-injection delivery assembly. In some embodiments, the components can be co-injected with carriers such as angiogenesis promoting factors, cell survival promoting factors and/or endogenous recruiting factors. These factors bind non-specifically to the self-assembled peptides by electrostatic interactions, and this binding can control or retard the release of the factors.

C.

[0036] In some embodiments, the two-component gel is an alginate construct. For example, the alginate construct may be collagen or gelatin grafted alginate. In one example, a first component can be a solution of about 0.5 percent to about 1.0 percent alginate while a second component can be a solution of about 40 mM to about 180 mM calcium chloride. One example of a suitable amount of components is about 200 microliters of alginate solution and about 200 microliters of calcium chloride. In one

embodiment, a desired amount of a treatment agent may be introduced with the alginate solution.

Methods of Manufacture

[0037] FIG. 2 schematically represents a method for preparing a two-component gel matrix with a sustained carrier loaded with treatment agent interdispersed therein. A treatment agent, such as an angiogenesis promoting factor, cell survival promoting factor, endogenous recruiting factor or any combination thereof can be added to a bioerodable polymer such as PLGA or PEA and PLA-PEEP co-polymers or polyphosphazenes (100). In some embodiments, a W/O/W process can be used. The mixture can be processed to monodisperse the resultant treatment agent loaded microspheres (110). The microspheres can be in a range from about 5 μm to about 200 μm , preferably from about 10 μm to about 50 μm . Next, the resultant dispersion can be added to one component of a two-component gel such as fibrin glue (120). In one embodiment, the two-component gel includes component A and component B, wherein component A is fibrinogen and component B is thrombin. Component A and component B can then be separately but simultaneously injected into the myocardial infarct region by a dual-injection delivery assembly for treatment thereof (130).

[0038] FIG. 3 schematically represents an alternative method for preparing a two-component gel matrix with a sustained carrier loaded with treatment agent interdispersed therein. A treatment agent, such as an angiogenesis promoting factor, cell survival promoting factor, endogenous recruiting factor or any combination thereof can be added to a bioerodable polymer such as PLGA or PEA and PLA-PEEP co-polymers or polyphosphazenes or collagen (200) with solvent. For collagen/elastin electrospun fibers, a suitable solvent can be HFP. In some embodiments, an aqueous system may be used. The mixture can then be subjected to electrospinning to create interwoven fibers (210) with a diameter in a range from about 0.2 μm to about 3 μm . The fibers may then be processed into smaller of length from about 0.5 μm to about 500 μm (220). The fibers may be processed by cryogenic grinding, subjected to ultrasound in water, or subjected to ultrasound in a volatile solvent that is a non-solvent for both the polymer and the encapsulated protein or other agent or subjected to any other suitable method to reduce their size. Next, the resultant fibers can be

added to one component of a two-component gel such as fibrin glue (230). In one embodiment, the two-component gel includes component A and component B, wherein component A is fibrinogen and component B is thrombin. Component A and component B can then be separately but simultaneously injected into the myocardial infarct region by a dual-injection delivery assembly for treatment thereof (240).

[0039] FIG. 4 schematically represents another alternative method for preparing a two-component gel matrix with a sustained carrier loaded with treatment agent interdispersed therein. A phospholipid substance can be combined with cholesterol in a solvent such as chloroform (300) in a round bottom flask. In some embodiments, a hydrophobic treatment agent including an optional co-solvent can be added thereto (300A). The solvent(s) can be evaporated depositing lipids on the glass surface (310). Next, water is added and in some embodiments, a hydrophilic treatment agent (320). Then, the mixture is sonicated to form liposomes (330) and optionally pressure-filtered to reduce liposome particle size (340). Next, the resultant liposomes can be added to one component of a two-component gel such as fibrin glue (350). In one embodiment, the two-component gel includes component A and component B, wherein component A is fibrinogen and component B is thrombin. Component A and component B can then be separately but simultaneously injected into the myocardial infarct region by a dual-injection delivery assembly for treatment thereof (360).

Example

[0040] In one embodiment, collagen electrospun fibers can be processed to a range from about 200 nm and about 1300 nm. The range of electrospun fibers is approximately the range of naturally occurring type 1 and type 3 fibers which make up the heart matrix. Thus, the electrospun fibers may mimic endogenous fibers and accelerate growth of repair tissue to the infarct region, in particular, on the heart. The fibers can be dispersed throughout one component of a two-component gel. The two components can then be delivered to myocardial infarct region. The fibers can provide "docking sites" for endogenous myocardial stem cells and encourage their differentiation into cardiomyocytes. The gel can provide temporary containment of the fibers and prevent premature removal by macrophage cells.

[0041] The fibers can be fabricated such that they include an agent or no agent. Examples of agents can include a chemoattractant, such as SDF-1, or a cell survival promoting factor, such as IGF-1. In one embodiment, SDF-1 may be incorporated within the electrospun fibers and the resultant agent infused electrospun fibers may be dispersed throughout one component of a two-component gel. When delivered, the release of SDF-1 may recruit endogenous stem cells to the infarct region where they will adhere to the electrospun fibers and differentiate into stem cells.

[0042] In another embodiment, IGF-1 may be incorporated within the electrospun fibers and the resultant agent infused electrospun fibers may be dispersed throughout one component of a two-component gel. Stem cells may be incorporated within the other component of the two-component gel. When delivered, the stem cells may be temporally immobilized in the gel and adhere to the electrospun fibers. IGF-1 may enhance stem cell survival.

[0043] It should be appreciated that any of the above-described methods may be combined to treat an infarct region.

Methods of Treatment

[0044] Devices which can be used to deliver each component of the gel include, but are not limited to, dual-needle left-ventricle injection devices and dual-needle transvascular wall injection. Methods of access to use the injection devices include access via the femoral artery or the sub-xiphoid. "Xiphoid" or "xiphoid process" is a pointed cartilage attached to the lower end of the breastbone or sternum, the smallest and lowest division of the sternum. Both methods are known by those skilled in the art.

[0045] FIGS. 5A-5B illustrate an embodiment of a dual-needle injection device which can be used to deliver the compositions of the present invention. Delivery assembly 400 includes lumen 410 which may house delivery lumens, guidewire lumens and/or other lumens. Lumen 410, in this example, extends between distal portion 405 and proximal end 415 of delivery assembly 400.

[0046] In one embodiment, delivery assembly 400 includes main needle 420 disposed within delivery lumen 430. Main needle 420 is movably disposed within delivery lumen 430. Main needle 420 is, for example, a stainless steel hypotube that extends a length of the delivery assembly. Main needle 420 includes a lumen with an inside diameter of, for example, 0.08 inches (0.20 centimeters). In one example for a retractable needle catheter, main needle 420 has a needle length on the order of 40 inches (1.6 meters) from distal portion 405 to proximal portion 415. Lumen 410 also includes separate, possibly smaller diameter, auxiliary lumen 440 extending, in this example, co-linearly along the length of the catheter (from a distal portion 405 to proximal portion 415). Auxiliary lumen 440 is, for example, a polymer tubing of a suitable material (e.g., polyamides, polyolefins, polyurethanes, etc.). At distal portion 405, auxiliary lumen 440 is terminated to auxiliary needle end 450 co-linearly aligned with a delivery end of needle 420. Auxiliary lumen 440 may be terminated to auxiliary needle end 450 with a radiation-curable adhesive, such as an ultraviolet curable adhesive. Auxiliary needle end 450 is, for example, a stainless steel hypotube that is joined co-linearly to the end of main needle 420 by, for example, solder (illustrated as joint 455). Auxiliary needle end 450 has a length on the order of about 0.08 inches (0.20 centimeters). FIG. 5B shows a cross-sectional front view through line A-A' of delivery assembly 400. FIG. 5B shows main needle 420 and auxiliary needle 450 in a co-linear alignment.

[0047] Referring to FIG. 5A, at proximal portion 415, auxiliary lumen 440 is terminated to auxiliary side arm 460. Auxiliary side arm 460 includes a portion extending co-linearly with main needle 420. Auxiliary side arm 460 is, for example, a stainless steel hypotube material that may be soldered to main needle 420 (illustrated as joint 465). Auxiliary side arm 460 has a co-linear length on the order of about, in one example, 1.2 inches (3 centimeters).

[0048] The proximal end of main needle 420 includes adaptor 470 for accommodating a substance delivery device (e.g., a component of a two-component bioerodable gel material). Adaptor 470 is, for example, a molded female luer housing. Similarly, a proximal end of auxiliary side arm 460 includes adaptor 480 to accommodate a substance delivery device (e.g., a female luer housing).

[0049] The design configuration described above with respect to FIGS. 5A-5B is suitable for introducing two-component gel compositions of the present invention. For example, a gel may be formed by a combination (mixing, contact, etc.) of a first component and a second component. Representatively, a first component may be introduced by a one cubic centimeters syringe at adaptor 470 through main needle 420. At the same time or shortly before or after, second component including treatment agent loaded sustained-release particles may be introduced with a one cubic centimeter syringe at adaptor 480. When the first and second components combine at the exit of delivery assembly 400 (at an infarct region), the materials combine (mix, contact) to form a bioerodable gel.

[0050] FIGS. 6A-6C illustrate an alternative embodiment of a dual-needle injection device which can be used to deliver two-component gel compositions of the present invention. In general, the catheter assembly 500 provides a system for delivering substances, such as two-component gel compositions, to or through a desired area of a blood vessel (a physiological lumen) or tissue in order to treat a myocardial infarct region. The catheter assembly 500 is similar to the catheter assembly 500 described in commonly-owned, U.S. Patent Application No. 6,554,801, titled "Directional Needle Injection Drug Delivery Device", and incorporated herein by reference.

[0051] In one embodiment, catheter assembly 500 is defined by elongated catheter body 550 having proximal portion 520 and distal portion 510. FIG. 6B shows catheter assembly 500 through line A-A' of FIG. 6A (at distal portion 510). FIG. 6C shows catheter assembly 500 through line B-B' of FIG. 6A.

[0052] Guidewire cannula 570 is formed within catheter body (from proximal portion 510 to distal portion 520) for allowing catheter assembly 500 to be fed and maneuvered over guidewire 580. Balloon 530 is incorporated at distal portion 510 of catheter assembly 500 and is in fluid communication with inflation cannula 560 of catheter assembly 500.

[0053] Balloon 530 can be formed from balloon wall or membrane 335 which is selectively inflatable to dilate from a collapsed configuration to a desired and controlled expanded configuration. Balloon 530 can be selectively dilated (inflated)

by supplying a fluid into inflation cannula 560 at a predetermined rate of pressure through inflation port 565. Balloon wall 335 is selectively deflatable, after inflation, to return to the collapsed configuration or a deflated profile. Balloon 530 may be dilated (inflated) by the introduction of a liquid into inflation cannula 560. Liquids containing treatment and/or diagnostic agents may also be used to inflate balloon 530. In one embodiment, balloon 530 may be made of a material that is permeable to such treatment and/or diagnostic liquids. To inflate balloon 530, the fluid can be supplied into inflation cannula 560 at a predetermined pressure, for example, between about one and 20 atmospheres. The specific pressure depends on various factors, such as the thickness of balloon wall 335, the material from which balloon wall 335 is made, the type of substance employed and the flow-rate that is desired.

[0054] Catheter assembly 500 also includes substance delivery assembly 505 for injecting a substance into a myocardial infarct region. In one embodiment, substance delivery assembly 505 includes needle 515a movably disposed within hollow delivery lumen 525a. Delivery assembly 505 includes needle 515b movably disposed within hollow delivery lumen 525b. Delivery lumen 525a and delivery lumen 525b each extend between distal portion 510 and proximal portion 520. Delivery lumen 525a and delivery lumen 525b can be made from any suitable material, such as polymers and copolymers of polyamides, polyolefins, polyurethanes and the like. Access to the proximal end of delivery lumen 525a or delivery lumen 525b for insertion of needle 515a or 515b, respectively is provided through hub 535. Delivery lumens 525a and 525b may be used to deliver first and second components of a two-component gel composition to a myocardial infarct region.

[0055] From the foregoing detailed description, it will be evident that there are a number of changes, adaptations and modifications of the present invention which come within the province of those skilled in the art. The scope of the invention includes any combination of the elements from the different species and embodiments disclosed herein, as well as subassemblies, assemblies and methods thereof. However, it is intended that all such variations not departing from the spirit of the invention be considered as within the scope thereof.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising:
a bioerodable material comprising a first component and optionally a second component;
a bioerodable carrier dispersed throughout one of the first component or the second component; and
a treatment agent disposed within the bioerodable carrier.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the material is one of a one-component gel or a two-component gel.
3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the one-component gel is sodium hyaluronate.
4. The composition of claim 2, wherein the two-component gel is selected from the group consisting of an alginate construct system, a fibrin glue system and a self-assembled peptide system.
5. The composition of claim 4, wherein the two-component gel is an alginate construct system comprising collagen grafted alginate as the first component and calcium chloride as the second component.
6. The composition of claim 4, wherein the two-component gel is a self-assembled peptide system comprising one of RAD 16-II, MAX-1 or EAK16-II as the first component and one of sucrose or sodium chloride as the second component.
7. The composition of claim 4, wherein the two-component gel is a fibrin glue system comprising fibrinogen or a derivative thereof as the first component and thrombin as the second component.
8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of bioerodable polymers and liposomes.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein the carrier is a particle.
10. The composition of claim 9, wherein the particle is one of a microsphere, a nanosphere or a polymerosome.
11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the particle is one of an electrospun microfiber or a nanofiber.
12. The composition of claim 1, wherein the treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an angiogenesis promoting factor, a cell survival promoting factor and an endogenous recruiting factor.
13. The composition of claim 12, wherein the angiogenesis promoting factor is selected from the group consisting of vasoendothelial growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, Del 1, hypoxia inducing factor, monocyte chemoattractant protein, nicotine, platelet derived growth factor, insulin-like growth factor 1, transforming growth factor, hepatocyte growth factor, estrogens, follistatin, proliferin, prostaglandin E1, prostaglandin E2, tumor necrosis factor, Interleukin 8, hematopoietic growth factors, erythropoietin, granulocyte-colony stimulating factors, platelet-derived endothelial growth factor, PR39, PR11, angiogenin, a PHD inhibitor, and a eNOS enhancer.
14. The composition of claim 12, wherein the cell survival promoting factor is selected from the group consisting of insulin-like growth factor, a human growth factor, a HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor and a capsase inhibitor.
15. The composition of claim 12, wherein the endogenous recruiting factor is one of human growth factor or stromal cell-derived factor 1.
16. A method of manufacturing a composition comprising:
combining at least one treatment agent with a precursor of a sustained-release carrier in a solvent to form a mixture;

processing the mixture to form a sustained-released carrier loaded with a treatment agent; and

adding the mixture to a component of a two-component gel system, wherein the two-component gel system comprises a first component and an optional second component.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the processing comprises subjecting the mixture to electrospinning to form fibers loaded with treatment agent.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the solvent is non-aqueous.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein a surfactant is added to the mixture.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the two-component gel system is selected from the group consisting of an alginate construct system, a fibrin glue system and a self-assembled peptide system.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the two-component gel system is an alginate construct system comprising collagen grafted alginate as the first component and calcium chloride as the second component.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the two-component gel system is a self-assembled peptide system comprising one of RAD 16-II, MAX-1 or EAK16-II as the first component and one of sucrose or sodium chloride as the optional second component.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the gel the two-component gel system is a fibrin glue system comprising fibrinogen or a derivative thereof as the first component and thrombin as the second component.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of bioerodable polymers and liposomes.

25. The method of claim 16, wherein the carrier is a particle.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the particle is one of a microsphere, a nanosphere or a polymerosome.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the particle is one of an electrospun microfiber or a nanofiber.

28. The method of claim 16, wherein the treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an angiogenesis promoting factor, a cell survival promoting factor and an endogenous recruiting factor.

29. The composition of claim 28, wherein the angiogenesis promoting factor is selected from the group consisting of vasoendothelial growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, Del 1, hypoxia inducing factor, monocyte chemoattractant protein, nicotine, platelet derived growth factor, insulin-like growth factor 1, transforming growth factor, hepatocyte growth factor, estrogens, follistatin, proliferin, prostaglandin E1, prostaglandin E2, tumor necrosis factor, Interleukin 8, hematopoietic growth factors, erythropoietin, granulocyte-colony stimulating factors, platelet-derived endothelial growth factor, PR39, PR11, angiogenin, a PHD inhibitor, and an eNOS enhancer.

30. The composition of claim 28, wherein the cell survival promoting factor is selected from the group consisting of an insulin-like growth factor, a human growth factor, a HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor and a caspase inhibitor.

31. The composition of claim 28, wherein the endogenous recruiting factor is one of human growth factor or stromal cell-derived factor 1.

32. A method of treatment comprising:

simultaneously injecting from a delivery device a first component and an optional second component of a gel composition to a post-myocardial infarct region, wherein one of the first component or the second component comprises at least one treatment agent within a sustained-release carrier.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the gel composition is selected from the group consisting of an alginate construct system, a fibrin glue system and a self-assembled peptide system.
34. The method of claim 33, wherein the gel composition is an alginate construct system comprising collagen grafted alginate as the first component and calcium chloride as the second component.
35. The method of claim 33, wherein the gel composition is a self-assembled peptide system comprising one of RAD 16-II, MAX-1 or EAK16-II as the first component and one of sucrose or sodium chloride as the optional second component.
36. The method of claim 33, wherein the gel composition is a fibrin glue system comprising fibrinogen or a derivative thereof as the first component and thrombin as the second component.
37. The method of claim 26, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of bioerodable polymers and liposomes.
38. The method of claim 32, wherein the carrier is a particle.
39. The method of claim 38, wherein the particle is one of a microsphere, a nanosphere or a polymerosome.
40. The method of claim 38, wherein the particle is one of an electrospun microfiber or a nanofiber.
41. The method of claim 32, wherein the treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an angiogenesis promoting factor, a cell survival promoting factor and an endogenous recruiting factor.
42. The method of claim 32, wherein the delivery device is a dual-injection needle catheter.

43. A method of treatment comprising:
simultaneously injecting from a delivery device a first component and a second component of a gel kit to a post-myocardial infarct region, wherein one of the first component or the second component comprises collagen electrospun fibers dispersed throughout the component.
44. The method of claim 43, further comprising at least one treatment agent incorporated within the electrospun fibers.
45. The method of claim 44, wherein the treatment agent is selected from the group consisting of an angiogenesis promoting factor, a cell survival promoting factor, an endogenous recruiting factor and a chemoattractant.
46. The method of claim 45, wherein the chemoattractant is one of stromal derived factor 1 or insulin-like growth factor 1.
47. The composition of claim 46, wherein the angiogenesis promoting factor is selected from the group consisting of vasoendothelial growth factor, fibroblast growth factor, Del 1, hypoxia inducing factor, monocyte chemoattractant protein, nicotine, platelet derived growth factor, insulin-like growth factor 1, transforming growth factor, hepatocyte growth factor, estrogens, follistatin, proliferin, prostaglandin E1, prostaglandin E2, tumor necrosis factor, Interleukin 8, hematopoietic growth factors, erythropoietin, granulocyte-colony stimulating factors, platelet-derived endothelial growth factor, PR39, PR11, angiogenin, a PHD inhibitor, and an eNOS enhancer.
48. The composition of claim 46, wherein the cell survival promoting factor is selected from the group consisting of an insulin-like growth factor, a human growth factor, a HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor and a capsase inhibitor.
49. The composition of claim 46, wherein the endogenous recruiting factor is one of human growth factor or stromal cell-derived factor 1.

FIG. 1B

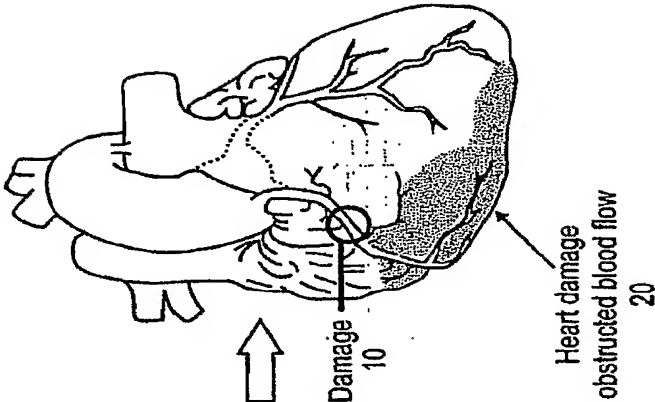
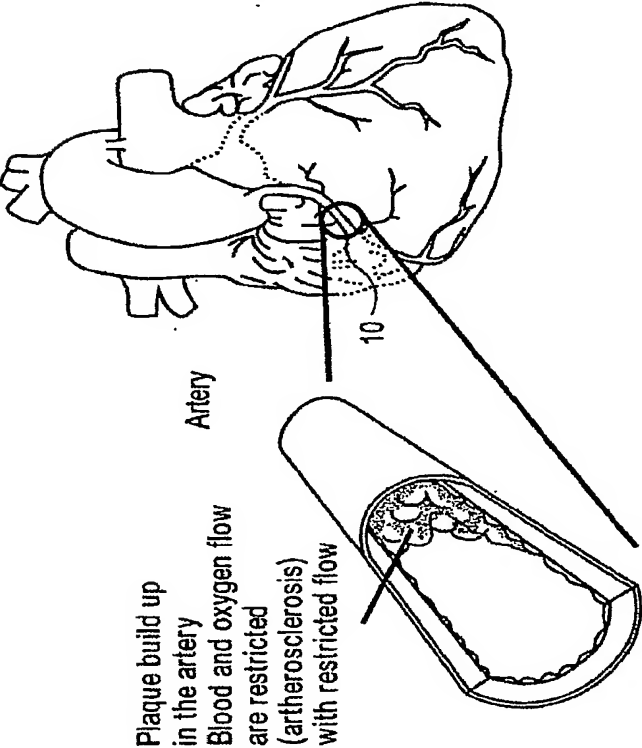


FIG. 1A



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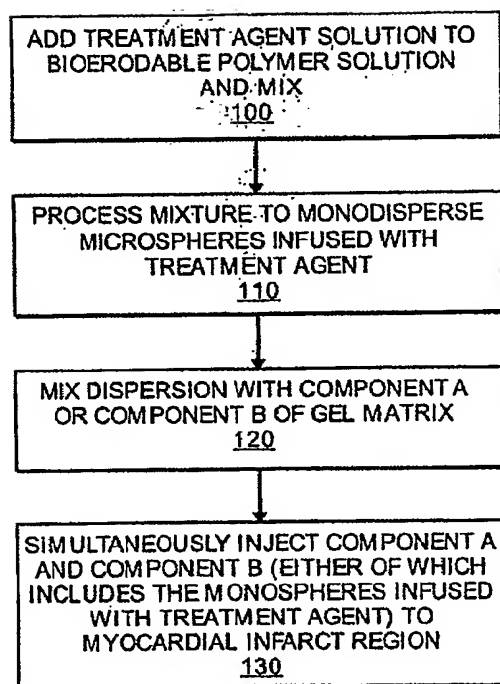
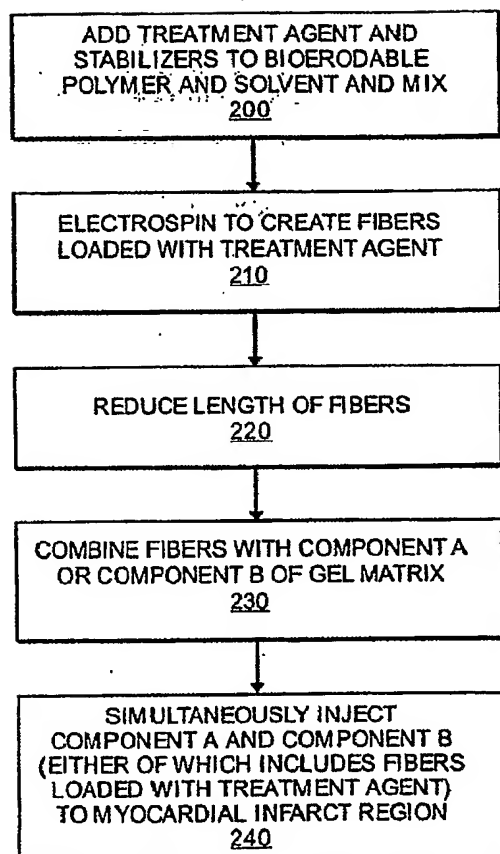


FIG. 2

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**FIG. 3**

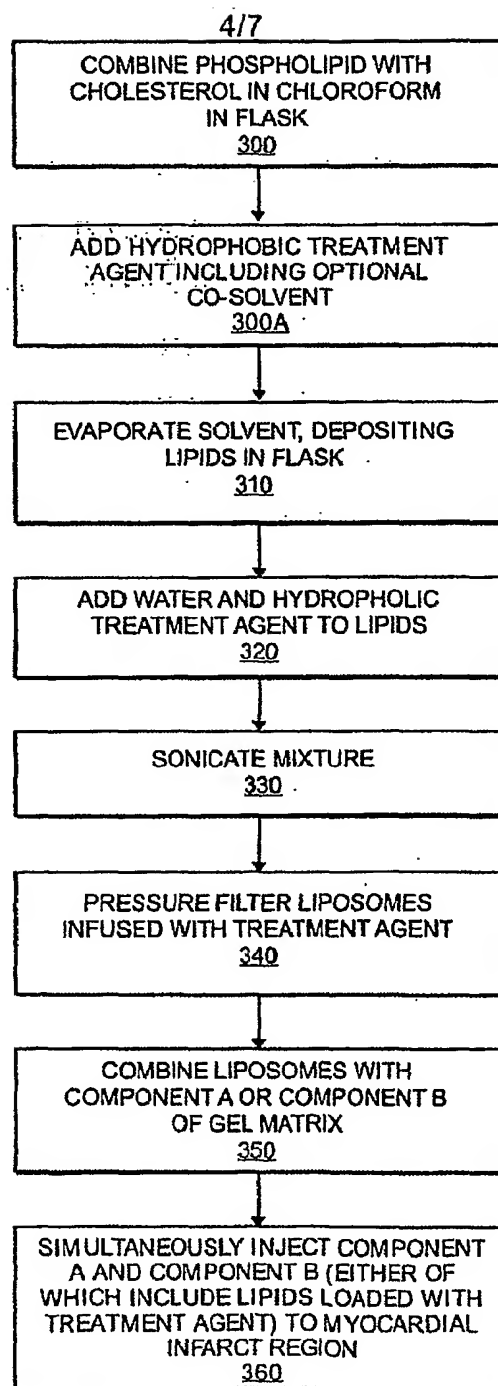


FIG. 4

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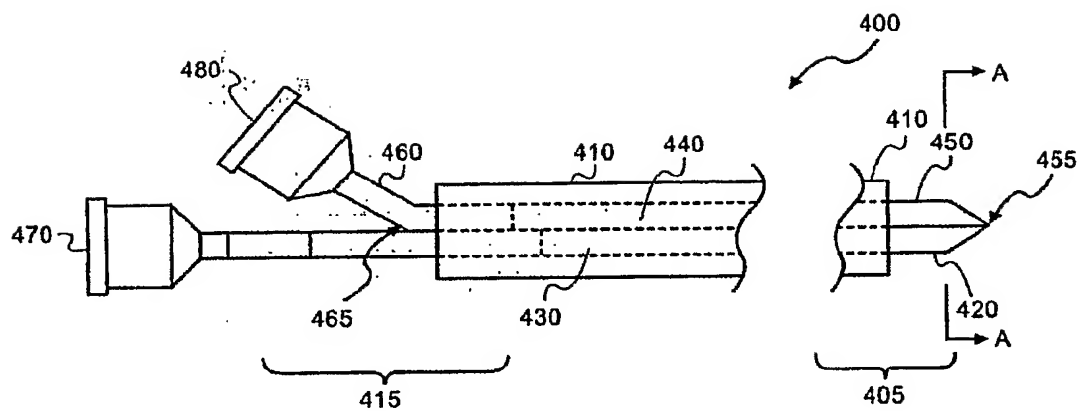


FIG. 5A

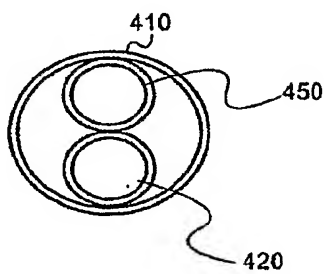
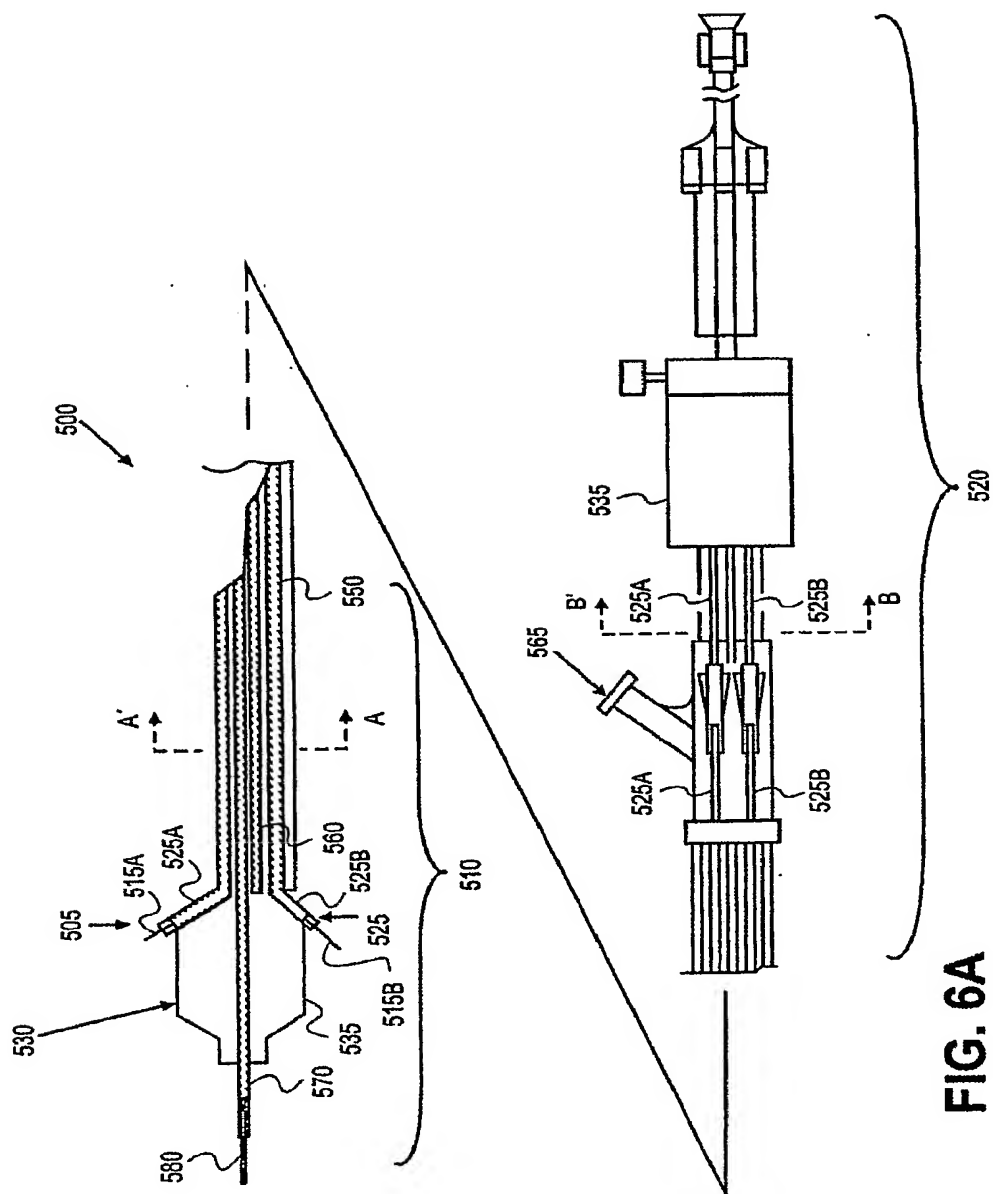


FIG. 5B



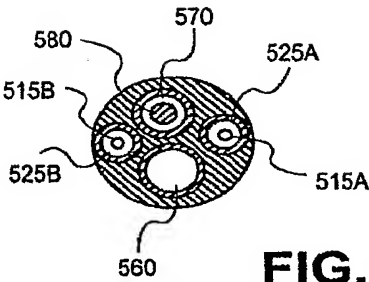


FIG. 6B

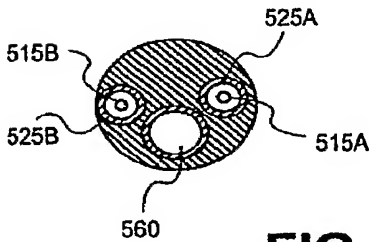


FIG. 6C